



Proclamation

Presented to

Ernest Arriga Tavares

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares was a proficient, self taught, piano player who began his formal music training at the age of 12 at St. Louis Catholic Boys College, where he was taught to read music and play clarinet; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares headed to Eureka, California at the age of 18, upon completing his automotive engineering course, to try and make it into the music industry; he played the piano at various Nevada clubs for several years, until returning to Maui in 1933 to tutor young children; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares reunited with his younger brother, Frederick Tavares, when he joined the Harry Owens Royal Hawaiian orchestra in 1935; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares was an exceptional professional musician; he played the steel guitar, guitar, upright bass, electric bass, ukulele, flute, clarinet, saxophone, piano, organ, and Hawaiian & Tahitian drums, gourds, and rhythm sticks; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares designed and built his own pedal steel guitar; an idea from which he envisioned a steel guitar with a full range of fat chords that could be played fluidly, making the instrument versatile in all genres of music; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares musical resumé speaks for itself; his performance credits include Jane Russell, Paul Page's South Sea Serenade, T. Texas Tyler, South Sea Islanders and Singing Rails; his recordings include the Hukilau Hulas I & II and Duke Kamoku & His Islanders; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares will be remembered as an excellent musician, singer, songwriter, conductor, arranger, choreographer, and inventor; recognized by the Steel Guitar Hall of Fame London and the Hawaiian Steel Guitar Association; and

WHEREAS, Ernest Arriga Tavares will be presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award on May 28, 2011 at the Hawai'i Academy of Recording Arts Nā Hōkū Hanohano Music Festival;

THEREFORE I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and I, BRIAN SCHATZ, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim May 28, 2011, as

"ERNEST ARRIGA TAVARES DAY"

in Hawai'i and ask the people of the Aloha State to join us in recognizing the significant contributions Ernest Arriga Tavares has made to the history of Hawaiian music and culture and arts in Hawai'i.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this ninth day of May, 2011.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

Governor, State of Hawai'i

BRIAN SCHATZ

Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i